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SUBJECT: BURMA: APRIL GAERC CONCLUSIONS ACCURATELY
REPRESENT PORTUGAL CONCERNS

REF: STATE 45471

The April 29 GAERC conclusions accurately represent Portugal's concerns regarding Burma's upcoming referendum on its draft constitution, according to MFA Officer for Southeast Asia Ana Luisa Riquito. She noted that while Portugal believes the international community should be allowed to monitor the voting, it was highly unlikely the Burmese authorities would permit this. Portugal is very concerned with developments in Burma and will continue to monitor the situation there, Riquito said. She added that the EU has initiated a third series of demarches expressing these concerns to ASEAN capitals, Beijing, New Delhi, Moscow and Tokyo. She also commented that the EU was still evaluating the impact of current financial sanctions before considering implementing new ones.

Stephenson